— NGO should be registered for more than three years

— have experience in the field of Education, Adult Education or related fields

— NGO should be financially sound and have Audited statement of accounts for last three years

— it should have carried out programmes and activities in the district it has applied for.

(b) and (c) The coverage of the scheme extends to the entire district. The target group of the scheme is semi-literate, neo-literates and unskilled youth with special emphasis on SC/ST, OBC and other deprived sections of the society, particularly in rural areas of the district.

(d) Jan Shikshan Sansthan are sanctioned to reputed NGOs keeping in view the progress of literacy schemes in the district, availability of slots for different States in a particular year and to ensure equitable distribution between States.

Inclusion of information and communication technology in schools curriculum

1822. **SHRI** N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions to the State Governments to include information and communication technology in schools as a part of their syllabus;

(b) whether any project of Kerala seeking financial assistance for the above scheme is pending with Government for sanction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (**SHRI ARJUN SINGH**): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for financial assistance under the revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) scheme. The CLASS scheme has been discontinued.

The proposal from Kerala would be considered as and when a scheme for Information and Communication Technology is formulated by the Government.

Job-oriented courses

1823. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has recently announced a plan to allow colleges and universities to run job-oriented courses alongwith conventional courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of colleges/universities, State-wise, which have been permitted to start job-oriented course; and

(d) whether UGC also proposes to extend financial assistance to the colleges/universities to start such courses?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission has introduced the scheme of 'Career Oriented Programmes' during the Xth Plan, which has a flexible system of Certificate/Diploma/Advanced Diploma programme, which will run parallel to the conventional degree courses. The students would have the freedom to diversify into various fields not necessarily related with their core discipline. The objective is to introduce career and market oriented, skill enhancing, add-on courses that have utility for job, self-employment and empowerment of students. The Colleges/ Universities have to opt for a minimum of three courses in each stream of Humanities, Commerce and Sciences. It is the prerogative of the Universities/Colleges to identify their own 'Need Based' career oriented courses.

(c) During the year 2003-04, UGC has permitted 368 colleges and 2 Universities to start such courses. A Statement of State-wise list of number of colleges/universities is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) Yes, Sir. The Universities/Colleges are being provided assistance under Section 2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act, 1956.